

**For Immediate Release**  
March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024



Shabnam Jannesari, *Azin is Getting Married*, Oil on canvas, 55 x 82 inches, 2020

## *Look, but Look With Love*

April 12 – May 15, 2024

Curated by Taylor Hickey  
With work by Seyhr Qayum and Shabnam Jannesari

**Opening Reception: April 12th from 6-8pm**

**NARS Main Gallery**

NARS Foundation is pleased to announce *Look, but Look With Love*, an exhibition shedding light on how, when, and where women hold space.

As women from Pakistan and Iran respectively, **Seyhr Qayum** and **Shabnam Jannesari** make work that centers on how women command space within their everyday lives. While their work is rooted in their lived experience, their practices engage the universal, perennial question of what it means for women to be and feel seen, to hold their own, to dance to the tune of their own agency.

Jannesari's large-scale, intricately patterned oil paintings of her Iranian female friends and family, create a world in which these strong women live freely. Qayum's large-scale metal sculptures explore how the tradition of adorning one's body can be a conduit to self-actualization for many women, delving into the relationship between jewelry and financial mobility.

The proposed exhibition will create an immersive, otherworldly space with the two artist's work – a space that will embrace the viewer and challenge their perception of space, scale, objecthood – and most importantly, womanhood. Playing with colored light and carpeting, *Look, but Look With Love* will engulf viewers in a sea of opulence, power, and unmitigated femme strength.

**About the curator:**

**Taylor Hickey** is a printmaker, bookmaker, and sculptor working out of New Bedford, Massachusetts. Born in Southeast Texas, Taylor earned her BA in Drawing and Printmaking from McNeese State University in Lake Charles, Louisiana. She went on to earn an MFA in Printmaking from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth in 2021, developing a body of work which pays homage to the human endeavor to understand the universe at large. In addition, she has taught various art classes at UMass Dartmouth, the MFA Boston, RISD Pre-College, and other institutions. In her free time, she frequently guest curates exhibitions and helps to organize events within her local arts community.

**About the artists:**

**Seyhr Qayum** (b. 1991) is a Kansas City-based multidisciplinary artist, whose practice sits at the intersection of adornment, capital, and feminism. She is the recipient of the Stutzman Foundation Award for Three-Dimensional Work, 2022, and is an AICAD Fellow at the Kansas City Art Institute. She has exhibited her artwork internationally, and has been an artist-in-residence at the Wassaic Project, NY, Chautauqua Institution, NY, and Ato Nexus, Tokyo. Qayum holds a B.F.A. from Boston University, MA, and an M.F.A. from Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY.

**Shabnam Jannesari** is a highly accomplished Iranian artist and an assistant professor of Art at Hastings College, NE. She obtained her Master of Fine Arts (MFA) with distinction from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth and has exhibited her works both internationally and in the US. Notably, she has held two recent solo shows, *Each String is a Thread, Each Color is Chord* at the Nebraska Art Council in Omaha, NE, and *The Carpet Grew like a Garden* at the 263 Gallery in Cambridge, MA. Her art portrays the struggles and strengths of Iranian women and challenges societal norms while highlighting female identity. She is a recipient of the Distinguished Art Fellowship at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth from 2018 to 2021 and the Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation Grant in 2020 and 2022. Furthermore, she was selected for the competitive Chautauqua Art Residency program in 2022 at Chautauqua Visual Arts in New York.

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The NARS Galleries are open Monday - Friday from 12 to 5 pm. For more information please call the office: 718-768-2765 or email [info@narsfoundation.org](mailto:info@narsfoundation.org).

**The New York Art Residency and Studios (NARS) Foundation** is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit arts organization committed to supporting artists and curators on an international level as well as engaging the local community in Brooklyn and the Greater New York area. Our mission is to present diverse platforms on which to nurture creative inspiration and innovative cross-pollination of ideas.



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